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GENERAL NOTES.

Red-headed Black Duck (Anas obscura rubripes).—In looking over the O. S. U. collections, I find that we have no specimens of typical **obscura**. Four birds taken in Ohio, at the Licking Reservoir, have heavily streaked throats and larger proportions which would mark them as **A. o. rubripes.** No data of life colors were preserved. It would seem quite possible, as Mr. Brewster rather intimates, that the newly elaborated species is the common bird of the interior.

Carolina Chickadee (Parus carolinensis).—Of this species Wheaton says, writing, of course, from Columbus: "Not common summer resident. Breeds. Arrives about the middle of April, apparently departs for the South soon after the breeding season." I have failed as yet to identify the Carolina Chickadee at any season here in Columbus, but came across a merry party of them who were transgressing all the rules, while taking my New Year's day horizon near the Licking Reservoir. In the first place, there they were, six of them, mingling freely in a bird troop which included as many more of their cousins, the Black-caps, beside Tufted Tits, Brown Creepers, Bluebirds, etc. The authorities declare them to be solitary in their habits. Then their occurrence so far North in winter is at least unusual. A high pitched note, beginning with a sneeze, and repeated twice, "Kechezawick, Kechezawick," first attracted my attention to the birds, but I was soon able to distinguish them readily in the troop by their smaller size. A specimen secured set all doubt at rest. Hereafter I shall carefully scrutinize all winter Chickadees occurring along the fortieth parallel.

W. LEON DAWSON, Columbus, O.

The Herring Gull (Larus argentatus) is generally credited with being a scavenger, but how entirely he lacks fastidiousness in his feeding is shown by the flocks that daily feed in the South branch of the Chicago River where it runs (crawls rather) by the stockyards, and in its "slips," where the vessels tie up for the winter. I doubt if a more offensive piece of wateri is found on the continent. Its odor is unspeakable until zero weather, yet from the time the gulls return in the fall until they leave in the spring they circle in all their grace over these filthy waters, feeding from the floating refuse, which they seem to pick from the surface without so much as wetting a feather—they may be more careful of their clothes than of their food. Audubon, by experimenting, decided that crows have little or no sense of smell. I think there can be little doubt the same is true of the gull. Whether the birds pass the night in the stock yards or not I do not know, but in the morning, about 7 o'clock, I frequently see flocks flying from here (about a quarter mile from the lake shore) toward the northwest—the

direction of the stockyards—but I have never happened to see any returning in the evening.

AGNES CHASE, Hyde Park, Chicago.

A Bob-White Tragedy.—The lower animals as well as man are subject to many ills and accidents. This is well illustrated by the number of incidents which are noted in natural history magazines. Instinct, it is true, has taught them much, yet nevertheless, they are constantly in danger of their lives.

One day last spring (April 20, 1902), while tramping the woods and fields north of Detroit, we saw an object hanging to a wire fence. Upon nearing it, it proved to be a female Bob-white (Colinus virginianus). The right foot had become tangled in a loop in the wire, and in trying to escape, the bird had disarticulated the leg bone from the hip. Here it must have hung for hours until death at last relieved it of its tortures. Who can imagine the pain which this creature must have suffered?

On a log a short way from the scene sat a male of this species, possibly its mate. Across the fields rang a gentle "Bob-white, a Bob-white," and as I paused I thought, "Ignorance is bliss."

A. W. BLAIN, Jr., Detroit, Mich.

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

The Story of a Martin Colony.—By J. Warren Jacobs. This, the second of a series of illustrated pamphlets based on the author's researches and observations, the first being issued in 1898 under the title of **Oological Abnormalities;** is a record of the establishment and maintenance of a colony of four or five pairs of Purple Martins at the writer's home in Waynesburg, Green County, Penn., and of its subsequent increase until it numbered almost three hundred individuals at the end of the fourth season—more than could obtain lodging in the ninety-nine rooms of the three houses, over one hundred being compelled to roost in the branches of a nearby apple tree. The next three years witnessed an annual overflow, accommodated by new houses furnished and erected by his experienced hand in various parts of the town. If the colony had remained intact it would in all probability have numbered in the neighborhood of twelve hundred birds at the end of the seventh year.

After the introduction, the subtitles are as follows: Topographical Sketch and Existing Conditions of the Premises and Vincity, Establishment and Subsequent Scenes of the Colony, Return from